

**Communications Plan for Announcing Response for GenX Sampling from Chemours,  
Washington Works Facility, WV**

February 6, 2018

**Day Prior to Notifications:** *(By COB Tuesday, February 6, 2018)*

**R3/R5 RA/DRA**      Notifies State Secretaries WVDEP and Ohio DEP

**HQ**                      Will post the Chemours response letter to the agency website:  
[ [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/pfas/epa-region-iii-letter-request-sampling-genx-water-supplies"](https://www.epa.gov/pfas/epa-region-iii-letter-request-sampling-genx-water-supplies) ]

**Day of Notification:** *(Wednesday, February 7, 2018)*

**R3 OCGR and R5 Public Affairs: (Media and Congressional/Local Officials Notifications)**

**10 a.m.**      R3 Attorney (Andy) will contact Chemours to notify them we are making the letter public

**11. a.m.**      R3 and R5 Liaisons will reach out to the appropriate congressional offices and local official contacts to inform and provide letter/link.

**Noon**              R3 and R5 will contact interested reporters and provide the letter or the link.  
If media inquiries come in, we will coordinate with HQ. These reporters include the following:  
                    Ken Ward, WV;  
                    Karl Baker, DE;  
                    **(HQ OPA –** will reach out to reporters outside of our region, such as  
                    Alex Ebert, Bloomberg Law, [ [HYPERLINK "mailto:aebert@bloomberglaw.com"](mailto:aebert@bloomberglaw.com) ]  
571.302.0959

**ORC**

**Noon**              R3 Attorney and R5 Attorney and Water Protection Staff will notify interested stakeholders, such as:  
                    Robert Bilott (Lawyer)  
                    Others? (please provide names)

**Revised Statement**

Protecting public health is EPA's highest priority. To ensure the safety of drinking water, EPA has requested The Chemours Company sample for the perfluorinated compound GenX in public and private water supplies in the vicinity of its Washington Works, West Virginia facility. The agency is working with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency on this request. Chemours has agreed to conduct the sampling requested, provided each drinking water supply gives permission to Chemours to conduct the GenX Sampling.

## **Background**

Sampling conducted at The Chemours Company's North Carolina facility has identified GenX in the Cape Fear River and in drinking water supplies both near the facility and downstream of the facility. This request for sampling of drinking water wells in the Washington Works area is to be done in conjunction with ongoing sampling for PFOA, a legacy perfluorinated compound. EPA's understanding is that DuPont and Chemours replaced PFOA with the GenX, and the agency is concerned that drinking water wells near the Washington Works facility may be impacted with GenX just as they were by PFOA. PFOA, PFOS and GenX are part of a diverse group of compounds collectively known as "PFAS," which are resistant to heat, water, and oil, persistent in the environment, and resist degradation.

EPA recently launched a cross-agency effort to ensure that communities across the country have the tools they need to address PFAS. EPA's efforts will build on the work the agency has done to establish non-regulatory drinking water health advisories for PFOA and PFOS. Learn more about this effort: [ [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-cross-agency-effort-address-pfas"](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-cross-agency-effort-address-pfas) ]

## **Q&As**

### **Why is EPA asking Chemours to monitor for GenX?**

According to DuPont and Chemours, in 2013, DuPont discontinued the use and discharge of PFOA at the Washington Works facility. EPA understands that DuPont and Chemours replaced PFOA with the compound GenX. GenX is manufactured at the Chemours Fayetteville, North Carolina facility. Over the past few years, the compound has been identified in the Cape Fear River and several water supplies downstream from that facility. GenX has also been detected in the ground water at the facility. EPA is concerned that drinking water wells in the vicinity of the Washington Works facility may similarly be impacted with GenX.

### **What are the health impacts of GenX?**

The agency's water and research offices are leading a cross-agency work group to:

- Identify a set of near-term actions that EPA will take to help support local communities.
- Enhance coordination with states, tribes and federal partners to provide communities with critical information and tools to address PFAS
- Increase ongoing research efforts to identify new methods for measuring PFAS and filling data gaps.
- Expand proactive communications efforts with states, tribes, partners and the American public about PFAS and their health effects.

### **Is Chemours required to do this monitoring?**

Chemours is already required to sample and test drinking water supplies for PFOA under a number of Safe Drinking Water Act orders that are currently in place. EPA is asking that as part of the next sampling round, or [ [HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://67"](#) ], Chemours also test for GenX.

**Is discharging GenX a violation of the order that's currently in place for the facility?**

The existing SDWA Order only applies to PFOA and does not address GenX-EPA has in place for GenX a TSCA Consent Order issued to DuPont/Chemours, which is national in scope. This order required a 99 percent removal/capture/destruction of GenX release. EPA is monitoring compliance at the Fayetteville facility, including compliance with the TSCA Consent Order.